

Govt to withdraw arms case filed during caretaker govt rule

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to withdraw an arms case against three low-profile criminals of infamous Six Star Group, considering the charge as "politically motivated", although it was brought during a caretaker government rule.

The case was filed against Abul  
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DUBIOUS HARBIN DEAL  
Legal notice served on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has been served with a legal notice demanding cancellation of the illegal and arbitrary decisions approving the flawed bid of Chinese firm Harbin Power Engineering Company in the tender for Chandpur 150 MW power project.

The notice is also aimed against the government's failure to take  
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If Pandora's box opened, none will be spared  
Threatens JMB chief

UNB, Jhalakathi

JMB chief Abdur Rahman facing trial for judges murder case yesterday threatened a police prosecution witness in the court with opening the Pandora's box, leading to trouble to many.

"None of you will be spared if we  
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## JS sees steamy talks on militancy, voter list

AL walks out as Moudud given floor after Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday witnessed heated debate between the ruling alliance and the opposition lawmakers on voter list, electoral reforms, militancy and other burning issues, which ultimately led to the main opposition Awami League's walkout from the House.

During the debate the House witnessed pandemonium several times as the lawmakers from the ruling alliance and the opposition

bench shouted at their opponents on the concluding day of the 21st session of the eighth parliament.

The AL walked out from parliament at 10:46pm as the speaker gave floor to Law Minister Moudud Ahmed after Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina's speech.

In her concluding speech the opposition leader told the House that the Election Commission (EC) has prepared a "fake" list of voters ignoring the High Court directives in a bid to bring back the ruling

alliance to power.

She said that two crore "fake" voters have been included in the electoral roll while 70 lakh genuine voters having allegiance to AL dropped.

Those who want to grab power through "election engineering" do not want electoral reforms and that is why they have nominated some objectionable persons for the government team for dialogue on reforms, the AL chief said.

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## Police chiefs agree to form Saarcpol

Decide to cooperate more to fight terrorism, trafficking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police chiefs of Saarc member countries yesterday agreed in Dhaka to form a police forum named 'Saarcpol' for cooperation in police matters in the region.

Deciding to increase cooperation between police organisations and share technical, technological and training expertise, the police bosses also reached a consensus to strengthen cooperation in fighting

organised crimes like terrorism and trafficking in humans and drugs.

They also proposed formation of an association of police chiefs, Bangladesh Inspector General of Police (IGP) Abdul Quayyum said after the Fifth Saarc Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Bangladesh Home Secretary  
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## CONTROVERSIAL VOTER LIST EC to use it to make database

As much as Tk 7cr may be spent on it while previous roll remains unused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has taken measures to prepare a new voter database on the basis of the controversial fresh voter roll while the one prepared in 2000 still remains unused, sources said.

The EC Secretariat at a meeting on Monday assigned some officials concerned to devise plans for

preparing the database and estimate the total cost for the task, added the sources.

An official of the Secretariat hinted that a database of 9.13 crore voters might cost between Tk 6 crore and Tk 7 crore.

The previous voter database was prepared at a cost of about Tk 5.3 crore. Containing information  
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## PDB OFFICE HEM-IN PROGRAMME 50 vehicles damaged as protesters go wild

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday charged baton on a procession of Kendrio Jubo Sangram Parishad (KJSP) which was heading for the PDB (Power Development Board) Bhaban at Motijheel to lay siege to it protesting unprecedented load shedding and demanding uninterrupted power supply, leaving at least 50 injured.

More than 20 others were injured, raising the total to over 70, as the demonstrators damaged around 50 motorised vehicles near Baitul Mukarram.

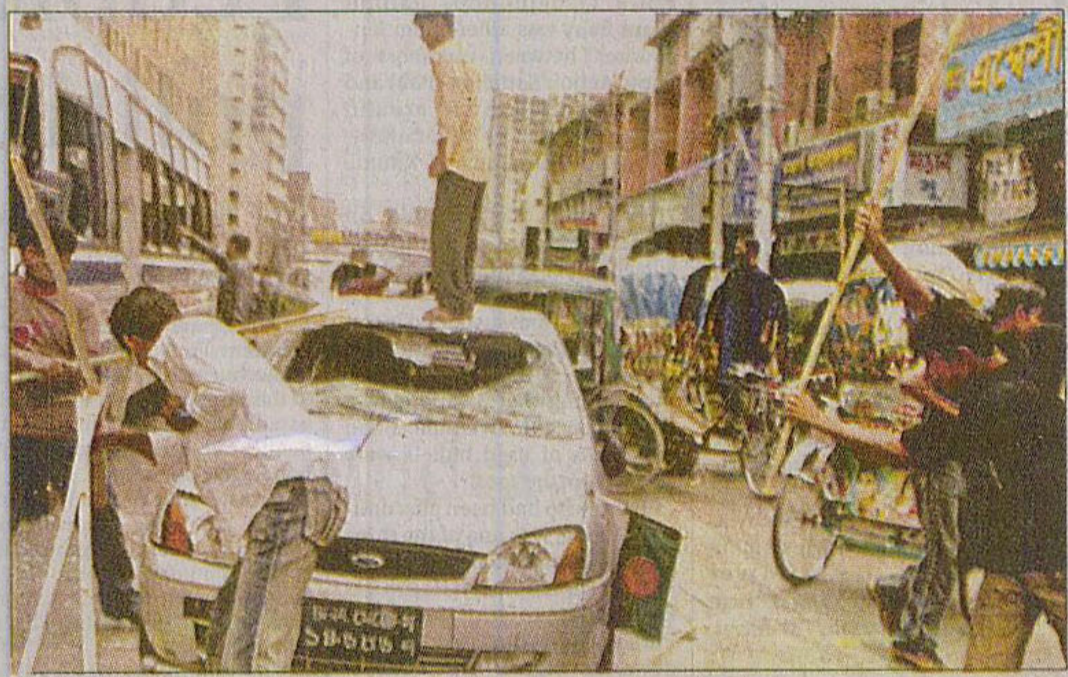
The procession was brought out by the KJSP, a platform of youth fronts of the Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine.

Witnesses said a section of participants in the procession, who attacked vehicles near Baitul Mukarram, were carrying the banner of Dhaka City Awami Jubo League (north). Most of those injured in this incident were passengers of different vehicles.

Police rushed to the spot and charged baton on those damaging vehicles. The demonstrators pelted bricks and teargas shells to disperse them. At least 30 opposition activists were injured there.

Police later brought the situation under control and picked up seven activists from the spot.

Witnesses said some plain-clothes personnel also clashed  
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Jubo Sangram Parishad demonstrators damaging vehicles in the capital's Paltan area yesterday on their way to Motijheel to lay siege to the PDB Bhaban demanding uninterrupted power supply.

## HEROIN SMUGGLING Probe team asks UK for personal details

BB yet to give banking info on 12 suspect firms

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The CID-led team investigating the 75.5kg heroin smuggling to the UK in a letter yesterday requested the British authorities concerned for all information about the persons involved in the crime.

A team member said in the letter they have also asked their UK counterparts for all the documents having a bearing on this international drug trafficking.

"If we get from the UK the details about the persons who played a role in the smuggling and the related documents will help  
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much in our investigation," he told The Daily Star preferring anonymity.

The UK customs have filed several cases against a number of persons for their alleged involvement in the drug running and the British police have seized some documents in this connection, sources said.

Meanwhile, the investigators have found sufficient evidence of the involvement of BD Foods Limited in the smuggling, said a source close to the four-member probe team. "But, we are trying to  
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